



National Gallery of Art
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Spring 2012

NGAkids

Family Activities at the National Gallery of Art, Washington



Celebrate Japanese Art

Join us this spring for a series of films, musical performances, and an exhibition celebrating the centennial of Japan's gift of cherry trees to the nation's capital.

All programs are free. Seating for all films and concerts is offered on a first-come, first-served basis. No advance registration is required. For more information, call (202) 843-6252.

film

My Neighbor Totoro
(Hayao Miyazaki, Japan, 1988, 86 minutes)
Saturday, March 31 | 10:30 am
Saturday, April 7 | 10:30 am
East Building Auditorium
Ages 6 and up

Written and directed by renowned Japanese animator Hayao Miyazaki, *My Neighbor Totoro* is a fantasy film that follows two young girls and their interactions with friendly wood spirits. When Satsuke and her younger sister Mei move to a new home in the country to be near their mother who is

recuperating in a local hospital, the sisters soon discover the magical world of forest spirits and meet the large, but gentle Totoro. Together the trio enjoys delightful adventures while the girls await their mother's return home. *English language version.*

Summer Wars
(Mamoru Hosoda, Japan, 2009, 114 minutes)
Saturday, April 21 | 11:30 am
Saturday, April 28 | 11:30 am
East Building Auditorium
Ages 12 and up

This Japanese animated science-fiction romance highlights the challenges of living in real and virtual worlds. When Kenji, a high school math student, is invited by his crush and fellow student Natsuki to take a summer job in her hometown of Nagano, he is eager to go. As Natsuki's family plans her great-grandmother's 90th birthday celebration, Kenji learns that his "summer job" is to pretend to be Natsuki's fiancé. While they try to keep up the act for her family, Kenji is faced with a strange invitation to crack a mathematical code and attempt to defeat a rogue program that threatens the entire country. *English language version.*

The Thousand Year Fire
(Naoki Segi, Japan, 2004, 89 minutes)
Sunday, April 22 | 11:30 am
Sunday, April 29 | 11:30 am
East Building Auditorium
Ages 9 and up

Mourning the loss of his parents, 11-year-old Satoshi moves from Tokyo to live with his grandparents in a small seaside town. Inspired by his new surroundings, he decides to participate in Hiwatashi, a ritual swim in the open sea. Those who accomplish this feat become members of the chosen circle permitted to watch over the holy fire of Chitosebi, which has burned perpetually for a thousand years. This touching live-action film captures stunning views of the Japanese landscape. *In Japanese with English subtitles.*

music

Taikoza
Saturday, March 31 | 4:00 pm
West Building, Mall Entrance
Ages 4 and up

Taiko drum ensemble Taikoza performs the dynamic rhythms of traditional and contemporary Japanese compositions on a variety of traditional barrel-shaped drums. Visitors are invited to sit on the West Building steps for this outdoor concert.

Anraku-Miyata Duo
Sunday, April 1 | 11:30 am
West Building, West Garden Court
Ages 8 and up

Mariko Anraku, principal harpist of Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, and Mayumi Miyata, celebrated performer of the *shō*, a traditional Japanese mouth organ, perform a selection of traditional Japanese and Western classical pieces.

Billy Fox and the Kitsune Ensemble
Sunday, April 15 | 11:30 am
East Building Auditorium
Ages 8 and up

Fox and the Kitsune Ensemble, an improvisational chamber group based in New York City, use Western instruments to explore Japanese folk music. The concert includes a performance of *Amanogawa*, a contemporary piece for Japanese flute and percussion.

poetry

April is National Poetry Month, and we invite visitors to create original haiku inspired by the exhibition *Colorful Realm: Japanese Bird-and-Flower Paintings by Itō Jakuchū (1716–1800)*. A family activity sheet, with tips for writing haiku, is available at the exhibition entrance and online. Share your haiku with others by submitting them for publication online at www.nga.gov/feature/jakuchu.



exhibition

Colorful Realm: Japanese Bird-and-Flower Paintings by Itō Jakuchū (1716–1800)

March 30 – April 29, 2012
West Building, Ground Floor

This exhibition features one of Japan's most renowned cultural treasures, the 30-scroll set of paintings by Itō Jakuchū entitled *Colorful Realm of Living Beings*.

Explore the exhibition with a family activity sheet, available at the exhibition entrance and online at www.nga.gov/feature/jakuchu

The exhibition is organized by the National Gallery of Art, The Imperial Household Agency, and Nikkei Inc., in association with the Embassy of Japan.

It has been made possible through the generous support of Toyota, Nikkei Inc., Airbus, the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, and The Exhibition Circle of the National Gallery of Art.

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It is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

front, top: *Nandina and Rooster* (detail), c. 1761–1765

front, bottom: *Lotus Pond and Fish* (detail), c. 1761–1765

inside: *Peonies and Butterflies* (detail), c. 1757

above: *Old Pine Tree and Peacock*, c. 1759–1761

from Itō Jakuchū, *Colorful Realm of Living Beings*, set of 30 vertical hanging scrolls, c. 1757–1766, Sannomaru Shōzōkan (The Museum of the Imperial Collections), The Imperial Household Agency, Tokyo